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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,420	02/06/2001	Sean B. Weatherill	GRTSTF.011A	6959

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JOHN QUOC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,420

Applicant(s)

WEATHERILL ET AL.

Examiner

John Q. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2002 and 21 May 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

This Office action is in response to applicant's Response of 10/30/02.

Claims 1-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard (US 5390695) in view of Kownacki et al (US 5988207).

Howard discloses a reel assembly having substantially all the claimed features including a housing having outer side walls 50 and 52. Kownacki et al discloses another similar apparatus having an exterior surface resembling an animal. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to alternatively provide an exterior surface of one or both side walls of Howard to have a facial indicia as taught by Kownacki for ornamental purposes. It is deemed inherent that one of the outer walls of Howard is removable to enable repair and maintenance or, alternatively, the provision of such would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to enable repair and maintenance. The design of the facial indicia and that the aperture is within the indicia would have been obvious matters of ornamental design choice to a person having ordinary skill in the art based on factors such as ornamental preference and design criteria. As shown in Fig. 1 of Howard, the aperture appears to be in both outer walls.

Hinged housing panels are old and well known in the art; therefore to make the access panel of Howard hingedly connected to the housing would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to facilitate opening and closing.

Housing panels that fit together and held together by means such as screws are also old and well known in the art; therefore to make the panels of Howard of this

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design would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to facilitate opening and closing. Therefore, when an outer panel with the indicia is detached, the indicia is also detached from the body.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard in view of Kownacki et al as applied to claims 1-26 and 28 above, and further in view of Weatherill (US D419961).

Weatherill discloses a spherical hose reel housing. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide make the housing of Howard spherical as taught by Weatherill for ornamental purposes.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by the changes to claims 1, 14, and 21 and new claims 22-28.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

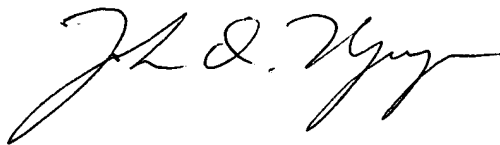
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-

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2689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 (before Final) and (703) 872-9327 (after Final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Q. Nguyen', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Q. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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